

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00245 231430Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 OCL-00 CCO-00 DODE-00 /015 W
-----232338Z 056078 /75-62

R 231350Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4427
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
INFO NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA
CISCO PROGRAM MGR ASMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASMARA 0245
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, ET
SUBJECT: ELECTRIC POWER FOR ASMARA

1. AT REQUEST CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR I MET WITH HIM MARCH 18. HE SAID THERE POSSIBILITY THAT LACK OF ADEQUATE RAINFALL THIS SPRING WOULD RESULT IN SHORTAGE OF WATER SUPPLY IN MAY-JUNE (JUST BEFORE ONSET OF RAINY SEASON). SHORTAGE OF WATER WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT ABILITY OF EELPA TO GENERATE SUFFICIENT ELECTRIC POWER TO RUN THE CITY. (EELPA HAS BOTH STEAM AND DIESEL GENERATORS). COL. FIKRU RECALLED THAT IN PAST KAGNEW STATION HAS PROVIDED ELECTRIC POWER TO MUNICIPALITY ON EMERGENCY BASIS, FOR WHICH HE VERY GRATEFUL, AND HE WAS ASKING FOR ASSURANCES THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE WOULD BE AVAILABLE IF NEEDED DURING PERIOD MAY-JUNE. HE SAID THAT AS IN PAST, MUNICIPALITY WOULD PAY FOR POWER USED.

2. I SAID THAT IN RECENT POWER EMERGENCIES, KAGNEW STATION HAD PROVIDED 1.5 MEGAWATTS TO CITY, WHICH, I BELIEVED, WERE JUST ADEQUATE TO LIGHT HOSPITALS, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, AND OTHER ESSENTIAL LOCATIONS; ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS, WE WOULD AGAIN BE PREPARED TO HELP TO THE EXTENT WE COULD. FIKRU REITERATED THAT KAGNEW POWER WOULD BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT EELPA, NOT REPLACE IT. SINCE NEITHER OF US WERE ELECTRICAL EXPERTS, WE AGREED THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION ON MODALITIES BE PURSUED BY KAGNEW AND EELPA.

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3. COMMENT: I HAD NOT EXPECTED THIS MATTER TO BE RAISED TO CA LEVEL. IT HAD BEEN BROACHED BY NEW SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO CA FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, ANTENEH BERHANE, ABOUT 10 DAYS EARLIER IN APPROACHES MADE TO OIC NAVCOMMU. IN ADDITION ATO FESSEHAZIEN APPROACHED PA&E ACTING FACILITIES MANAGER ABOUT THE SAME TIME. ON OUR SIDE, WE HAD AGREED TO ELICIT A WRITTEN REQUEST. IN VIEW

OF NEW TWIST, I WILL SEND LETTER OF CONFIRMATION CAREFULLY SPELLING
OUT LIMITED EXTENT OF OUR CAPABILITY TO ASSIST.

4. OUR FOCUS IS ON CONDITION OF KAGNEW GENERATORS. OF 4
IN INVENTORY, ONE UNIT (#1), IN THE PAST AVAILABLE FOR EELPA
USE, IS NOW INOPERATIVE; OF THE OTHER THREE, TWO ARE DESIGNATED
PRIMARY (#3) AND STANDBY (#2) FOR KAGNEW STATION AND ASSORTED
EPMG ENCAMPMENTS, HOWEVER, OCCASSIONALLY IN THE PAST THIS STANDBY
UNIT (#2) FOR KAGNEW HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR USE BY EELPA; THE
FOURTH UNIT (#4) IS ONLY marginally OPERATIONAL AND IS DESIGNATED
AS AN "EMERGENCY STANDBY" UNIT FOR KAGNEW ONLY. KAGNEW, BECAUSE
OF CONDITION AND CONFIGURATION OF THESE GENERATING UNITS, IS
ONLY CAPABLE OF PROVIDING 1.5 MW TO EELPA IN PERIODS OF EMERGENCY,
FROM THE STANDBY UNIT (#2) ONLY. OUR INTENTION IS TO PROVIDE
THE CITY OF ASMARA WITH A MAXIMUM OF 1.5 MW PROVIDED THAT KAGNEW
REQUIREMENTS CAN BE MET WITHOUT UTILIZATION OF THE KAGNEW STANDBY
UNIT (#2) WHICH IN THE PAST HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO EELPA FOR
SHORT PERIODS OF TIME.

5. EELPA IS APPARENTLY RIGHTLY CONCERNED ABOUT LACK OF WATER TO
POWER ITS STEAM GENERATORS. THEIR TWO DIESEL GENERATORS ARE WEARY
AND UNLIKELY TO ENDURE TWO MONTHS OF SUSTAINED USAGE IF WATER
IS IN SHORT SUPPLY. ON OTHER HAND, ONLY TWO OF FOUR KAGNEW GENERA-
TORS ARE IN SATISFACTORY CONDITION. THIS MESSAGE COORDINATED
WITH OIC NAVCOMMU.
SLUTZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, ELECTRIC POWER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770333/aaaabbym.tel
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